

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application No: 10/756,180

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 24 are cancelled and claims 14, 17-19, 21-22, and 25-27 are amended.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 21 has been amended to so that "shank" has proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits this rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13, 17, 21-24, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams (U.S. Patent No. 6,077,180). Claims 13 and 24 have been canceled. Claims 14 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims 13 and 24, respectively. Claims 17, 21-23, 27 and 28 now depend from claims that are believed to now be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully submits this rejection is overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 were indicated allowed.

Claims 14-16, 18-20, 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As stated, claims 14 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claims 13 and 24, respectively. It is now believed that claims 14 and 25, and any claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application No: 10/756,180

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


John F. Thuent
Registration No. 29,595

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuent, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5747